Lovely Strange Dark

ULTRABAROQUE DEPROGRAMMER

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CHAPTER 23

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Slide
CALAVERA! I CAN SEE THE EDGE OF THE SCENE!
CHAPTER 23 ● TELE-DEPROGRAM 4

ALL OF THEM?
Security Room
THAT'S ALL THE FOOTAGE FROM THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS DURING THE PERIOD WHEN THE PATIENT WAS HERE.

Rustle
OH, OF COURSE. I'LL TAKE THEM HOME.
DON'T BE SILLY!
HEY, SHE CAN LOOK AT THEM HERE. WE CAN'T ALLOW THOSE TO LEAVE THE ROOM!
rustle
HEY!
SPLASH
LIGHTER FLUID
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
ARE YOU SLEEP-WALKING!? HEY!

SO YOU AREN'T JUST TALKING TO YOURSELF IN YOUR HEAD? YOU'VE GOT BODIES!?
HOW YOU LOOK!?
NO, WE'RE ALL DIFFERENT. HOW WE LOOK, EVERYTHING.
YOU SAID YOU'LL SPLIT YOURSELF INTO THREE PARTS
SO IT'S LIKE HAVING THREE IDENTICAL COPIES OF YOURSELF?
IS UNIQUE TO DEPRO-GRAMMERS.
THE TECHNIQUE
HE'S STOPPED TALKING. I WONDER IF HE'S OK
WIPE

NOT LIKE I'D WANNA GO OUT DRINKING WITH THAT GUY, THOUGH.
WELL,
WE'RE LIKE COWORKERS. WE EACH DO THE WORK ASSIGNED TO US.
Flick!
!
SO I MIGHT GET TO MEET THEM!
ONCE WE START DEPROGRAMMING, THEY COULD COME TO THE SURFACE, RIGHT?
SO WHAT'RE THEY LIKE?
WHIRR
HELLO?
IT'S EXTREMELY UNLIKELY
YEAH, THANKS.
WELL, RIGHT NOW—

BUT IT'S JUST
A TACTLESS GUY AND A SMART-ASS BIRD
LIKE TOOTH-PICKS HOLDING TOGETHER WRAPPED ASPARA-GUS!?
ドドドドドド
ドドドドドド

CRASH
A LITTLE
NICE WAY TO DO IT. LOOKS LIKE TOFU SKIN, RIGHT?
GOOD WORK, CALAVERA
YOU GOT WRAPPED UP IN THERE!?
CALAVERA!
CALA-VERA!
YOU'VE GOT THE WHOLE TOWN WOUND UP IN THERE !?

HERE'S WHERE
OUR REAL MINDSCAPE STARTS
fwoo
...UM...
This is no good.
They'll definitely figure out
that I've been investigating nurse Sakaki.

LOOK CLOSELY AT YOUR ENEMY.
HE'S TRYING TO TAKE AWAY THE PERSON MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU.
YES, YOU CAN SEE HIM.
Rattle
WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO MY LITTLE GIRL...!?
DO YOU THINK THE POLICE WILL GET HERE IN TIME?
THEY WON'T...
ANYWAY, PLEASE CALM DOWN WE'LL GET YOU TREATMENT
WHAT HAPPENED? DID HE DO SOMETHING TO OFFEND YOU——?
Rattle
DADDY!
!?

YOU CAN DO IT. YOU CAN GET YOUR DAUGHTER BACK.
AH!
SLAM
RUMM...
WE HAVE TO CALL SOMEONE AND GET HIM MOVED ——
HUH?
There's a weird gleam in his eyes.
Is he drugged? ...or maybe...
He's hypno-tized—
AHH! STOP!
THUD
WELL,
NO NEED TO BE SHY ABOUT BREAKING THINGS NOW.

AND THESE GUYS ARE THE SECURITY GUYS!
WHAT IS THIS!?
I'M SORRY!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
GAH!

DIL, WHICH WAY SHOULD WE GO?

NOT SURE.
WE HAVE TOO LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT NOBIRU, OUR CURRENT SITUATION, AND WHAT HAPPENED BEFOREHAND.
WHICH DIRECTION WOULD THE WASHER HAVE LEFT US TRAPS?
FAKE MEMORIES DON'T EVEN COUNT AS TRAPS.
THIS MINDSCAPE IS HUGE.
WHEN I SAY IT ALOUD—
flap
DON'T GET ALL GLUM.
NO GETTING DEPRESSED WORRYING OVER WHETHER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET OUT.

...I
WAS HAPPY LIKE THAT.
HE'S LIKELY SOMEONE FROM OUR MEMORIES REGARDLESS. FOR NOW
I'll be off!
LET'S KEEP MOVING.
Staring at us?
Sitting in air?
Is that guy...
THE GOAL OF THIS DIVE ISN'T TO DEFRAG OUR MINDSCAPE OR RESET IT.
IT'S TO DESTROY ANY NEURO-CAVES OR TRAPS LEFT BEHIND.
...WHAT?
WARP

drip
click
click
I WAS HAPPY LIKE THAT.

...WHY ARE YOU HERE—?

極彩魔術様解体屋

ウルトラバロック・デプログラマー

ultrabaroque deprogrammer